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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

81012A

July 27, 1990

Mr. Joel Adler
Lee & Jackson Financial Services, Inc.
464 North Mopli Avenue
Camarillo, California 93010

Dear Mr. Adler:

I am responding to your recent letter to Mrs. Bush in which you expressed concern for the fate of Raoul Wallenberg. We certainly agree with your judgment about Raoul Wallenberg and about the heroic role which he played.

I do want you to know that we have pressed the Wallenberg issue in our discussions with the Soviets. I have, in fact, been personally involved in these discussions. The response which we have received was a reiteration of the 1957 statement that Wallenberg died in prison in 1947. I was told further that the only additional documentation found in the records was an exchange of letters between a physician at the prison and Minister of State Security Abakumov. The physician inquired whether he should perform an autopsy on Wallenberg and Abakumov responded in the negative and ordered the body cremated. I was told further that the physician died a natural death in 1953 and Abakumov was executed in 1954. On behalf of the United States Government, I urged a further investigation, specifically a search for persons, including officials, who encountered Wallenberg after his arrest. We have not as yet received a favorable response but intend to pursue this issue. With the further loosening of restrictions in the Soviet Union, a further examination of the case should be possible.

As you may know, Soviet officials met in 1989 with members of the Wallenberg family and the Raoul Wallenberg Committee at which time they turned some of Raoul Wallenberg's belongings over to the family. The Soviets in recent times stated that the noble activities of Raoul Wallenberg were highly appreciated in the USSR and his arrest was a "tragic mistake" which "one has not managed to rectify".

Sincerely,

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Richard Schifter
Bureau of Human Rights
and Humanitarian Affairs

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